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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT		
SUBJECT	Military Units, Orders, Directives, Airfields and Troop Movements	DATE DISTR.	5 February 1957	
		NO. PAGES	1	25X1
		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
DATE OF INFO.		REFERENCES	25X1	
PLACE & DATE ACQ.				

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Information is given on military units, defense preparations, a general order issued by Marshal Konev, a new organization issued to Air Force divisions, events at the Kaposvar/Taszar and Papa airfields during the revolution and movements of Soviet troops from Hungary.

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COUNTRY: Hungary

3 January 1957

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Hungarian and Soviet OB in Hungary

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1.

a. [redacted] the 91st Air Force Fighter Division (91. Vadászrepülőhadosztály) stationed at Taszár. The Division was directly subordinate to OLEP, National Air Force and Air Defense Headquarters, in Budapest.

b. In November 1956, the Division strength was 450 officers;

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c. The CO of the 91st Air Force Fighter Division was Major Bela Vörösmarty.

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2.

[redacted] information on the three regiments subordinate to the 91st Air Force Fighter Division:

a. The 24th Fighter Regiment (24. Vadászrepülőezred), located at Sármellek (N 46-43, E 17-10) as of 10 November 1956, consisted of three flying companies (repülőszázad) and one Independent Air Engineer Battalion (ÖREMUZ - Önálló

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Repülő Műszaki Zászlóalj). The CO was Major Szilágyi (fmu); the Deputy CO was Captain Horvath (fmu). Fighter pilots were trained at this Regiment. Regimental equipment included: 40 MIG-15 BIZ', 18 YAK-18's, four YAK-11's, three or four MIG-15's (training planes), one P-8 radar, one RAS-UKW radio, one NRZ combination radio-radar, and one RAS-UKW Pelengator radio.

- b. The 35th Fighter Regiment (35. Vadászrepülőezred), located at Taszár as of 10 November 1956, had a strength of 160 to 180 officers and 300 to 350 EM as of 4 November 1956. The Regiment consisted of three flying companies and one overstrength Independent Air Engineer Battalion which served Division Headquarters and the 35th and the 50th

Fighter Regiments at Taszár. The CO was Captain Sallai (fmu). This Regiment trained pilots sent from Kunmadaras (N 47-25, E 20-47) who had not completed pilot training and could be sent only on daylight flights. Equipment assigned to the 35th Fighter Regiment included: 40 MIG-15 BIZ', four YAK-18's for training, two YAK-11's for training, and one RAS-UKW radio.

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- c. The 50th Fighter Regiment (50. Vadászrepülőezred), also located at Taszár, consisted of three flying companies staffed with highly trained personnel, i.e., first-class pilots who had successfully completed a series of special tests in flying, bombing, etc., who were assigned to night flights in bad weather. Regiment strength was approximately 200 officers and 400 to 500 EM. Among the officers were 50 pilots, 50 technical officers, 25 special signal personnel (küldönleges), and 20 graduate engineers. The CO was Captain Somogyi (fmu). Equipment assigned to the Regiment included: Four MIG-17 PF's, one YAK-11, 40 MIG-15 BIZ', one P-8 radar, one P-10 radar, one RAS-UKW radio, and two NRZ combination radio-radar sets.

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- a. The 66th Fighter Division (66. Vadászrepülőhadosztály), located at Kecskemét (N 46-54, E 19-41), had three subordinate regiments:

- (1) The 31st Fighter Regiment, located in Kalocsa (N 46-32, E 18-59) as of 10 November 1956, trained fighter pilots for good weather flying by night and bad weather flying by day. There were three companies with 20 MIG-15 BIZ' each, and one Independent Air Engineer Battalion. Equipment included: One P-8 radar, one RAS-UKW Pelengator radio, one NRZ combination radio-radar, and one RAS-UKW radio.
- (2) The 3rd Fighter Regiment, located at Kiskunlacháza (N 47-11, E 19-00), was organized and equipped the same as the 31st Fighter Regiment (see 3 a (1) above).

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(3) An unidentified fighter regiment, located at Kecskemét, consisted of three companies and one Independent Engineer Battalion. This regiment trained pilots for both day and night flying in bad weather. Equipment of the regiment included:
40 MIG-15's, MIG-17's, and MIG-17 PF's [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] one P-20 radar, and one P-8 radar. 25X1

b. An unidentified Special Soviet Air Force Division, located at Pápa (N 47-20, E 17-28), (Pápai Különleges Repülőhad-sztály), had four subordinate regiments:

(1) The 4th Fighter Regiment, located at Szentkirályszabadja (N 47-03, E 17-58) as of 10 November 1956, consisted of four companies and one Independent Air Engineer Battalion. One unidentified Soviet AAA unit was attached to this Regiment. The Regiment trained pilots for day and night flying in bad weather.
Equipment [redacted] included: 80 MIG-15 BIZ', 25X1
MIG-17's, and MIG-17 PF's [redacted],
one P-20 radar, and one P-8 radar.

(2) Three unidentified fighter regiments were located in Pápa. Each consisted of four companies and one Independent Air Engineer Battalion. Pilots were trained for both day and night flying in bad weather.
Equipment included: P-20 radars, P-8 radars,
P-50 radars, MIG-17's, MIG-17 PF's, and MIG-19's.

(3) One unidentified Soviet AAA unit and one unidentified Soviet armor unit for defense of Pápa Airfield were also a part of this Special Soviet Air Force Division.

c. A Soviet Bomber Division located in Debrecen included the following:

(1) An Air Force bomber regiment, located at Tököl (N 47-19, E 18-58) as of 10 November 1956, equipped with 48 IL-28 bombers, one P-20 radar, and one P-50 (?) radar.

(2) Three Air Force bomber regiments, located at Debrecen, with aggregate equipment including one P-20 radar, one P-8 radar, and one SCR-527 US radar.

(3) One unidentified AAA unit for the entire division.

Defense Preparations

4. All AAA positions [redacted] were in 3rd degree alert 25X1 at all times, i.e., all AAA personnel were confined to their installations.

5. Air raid instruction and training among the civilian population included evacuation training and use of gas masks. MÖHOSZ trained its members in defense of villages, guarding installations, use of weapons, and guerrilla warfare.

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General Order Issued by Marshal Konev

6. In September 1956, a general order was issued to all division commanders by Marshal Konev, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact forces. The order outlined the duties of each division commander in the event of war. According to the order, all West German, French, American, and British military planes were to be shot down immediately after entering the territory of the Communist Bloc. Included in the order was a list of Air Force battle positions and positions of strategic AAA units in Hungary. The order stated that Hungary was to supply three Air Force fighter divisions and two Air Force bomber divisions to the Warsaw Pact Forces in case of armed conflict.
7. According to the general order, Hungary was divided into three Air Defense Sectors (légvédelmi körzet):
 - a. The Pápa Sector, presumably Soviet administered, included the western part of Hungary -- Esztergom, Nyitra, Bratislava, Wiener Neustadt, Szentgotthárd, Tihany, Velence.
 - b. The Taszár Sector, presumably Hungarian administered, included the western part of Hungary -- Esztergom, Gödöllő, Szentgotthárd, Tihany, Velence.
 - c. The Kecskemét Sector included the area east of the Danube.

New Organizational Directive Issued to Air Force Divisions

8. [redacted] new organizational directive issued to all Air Force Divisions of the Warsaw Pact Forces.

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[redacted] The directive was a Top Secret document. According to the new directive, one Air Force division was to have four regiments, one regiment was to have four flying companies and one ÖREMÜZ (Independent Air Engineer Battalion), and one flying company was to have four platoons and one headquarters platoon. The ÖREMÜZ' were to have additional personnel assigned to them and POL vehicles in use were to be replaced with those having a greater capacity. One Air Force division was to have four ÖREMÜZ' instead of three. Soviet Air Force divisions allegedly were already operating according to this new plan. The Hungarian units' reorganization was halted by the outbreak of the revolution.

9. The new directive was to alter equipment assigned to the 91st Air Force Fighter Division at Taszár as follows: The 50th Regiment was to be assigned only MIG-17's and MIG-17 PF's. The 35th Regiment was to be assigned only MIG-17's. The 24th Regiment was to have one company of MIG-19's and the remainder MIG-17 PF's.

Events at Taszár Airfield During the Revolution

10. On 24 October at 1000 hours there was a Division alert at Taszar Airfield. All Division personnel were issued PPSh SMG's. On 31 October military revolutionary committees were

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formed spontaneously. The same day the OLLEP revolutionary council sent an ultimatum signed by Colonel Nadar to the Soviet Command in Budapest. The text of the ultimatum [redacted] was as follows:

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- a. Soviet Forces must be withdrawn from Budapest within 12 hours.
- b. The evacuation of all Soviet troops from Hungary must begin at once.
- c. Hungary must quit the Warsaw Pact.
- d. Hungary must be a neutral state.
- e. Free elections must be held.
- f. Political control must be removed from the army.
- g. Hungarian uniforms must replace Soviet dress.
- h. OLLEP declares it will attack Soviet units unless the above conditions are fulfilled.

11. On 31 October at 2100 hours, as a result of the ultimatum, Soviet armored units surrounded and occupied Taszár Airfield. All personnel were told to remain in the area of the caserne. A Soviet brigadier general who negotiated with the Division at Taszár stated that 800 Soviet tanks had occupied the airfield. [redacted] these 25X1
 armored units made up "three armored divisions." [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] all or almost 25X1
 all or the tanks were equipped with a night-seeing device called noktovizor (sic). [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] the shade or cover (ernyő), approximately ten centimeters in diameter, of one such device. [redacted] the tanks 25X1
 weighed 54 tons and were equipped with 122 mm guns and 12.7 MG's. On 4 November the caserne at Taszár was surrounded by these Soviet armored units and all personnel were ordered to "go home for a few days."

Events at Pápa Airfield During the Revolution

12. The Special Soviet Air Force Division at Pápa Airfield refused to fight against the Hungarian rebels. The Communications Officer of this Division sent a message by telephone to the Division at Taszár to this effect on 3 November 1956. The message was translated by a Hungarian lieutenant and delivered to the other Hungarian officers. On or about 4 November new Soviet personnel began arriving from the Soviet Union to replace the Soviet Air Force Division at Pápa. The new units from the Soviet Union attempted to disarm the old division, but there was considerable hand to hand fighting during the process. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted]

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Movement of Soviet Troops from Hungary

13. Personnel of the Soviet Air Force Fighter Regiment (Szent-királyszabadjai Vadászrepülélezred) based at Szentkirályszabadja and the Soviet Air Force Special Division based at Pápa were shipped back, at least in part, to the Soviet Union on or about 4 November 1956.

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